



Long Beach Police Department

# Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit • 100 Long Beach Blvd • Long Beach, CA 90802

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## COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

### VICE OPERATIONS

Wednesday, August 18, 2004  
7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Water Department Headquarters  
1800 East Wardlow Road (west of Cherry Avenue)

Prostitution is sometimes referred to as a "victimless" crime, but it is not. Left unchecked, prostitution can lead to a host of quality of life concerns and invites other various crimes into our neighborhoods.

Join us for an evening with Vice Detectives and learn what they do to combat this illegal activity. Please join us for a highly educational presentation with information regarding undercover stings and related vice operations.

**Please join us and bring your friends and neighbors!**

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## Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- August 8, 2004, Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**CRIME PREVENTION SAFETY TABLE/CONCERT IN THE PARK**  
SPRING ST. / STUDEBAKER RD.  
El Dorado Park Association - 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach  
For further information, contact PSA Lisa Massacani: (562) 570-7229
- August 26, 2004, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**"JOIN A CLUB DAY" AT LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE**  
LBCC STUDENTS - AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION  
LIBERAL ARTS CAMPUS, 4901 E. CARSON STREET, LONG BEACH  
For further information, contact Gregory Slaughter: (562) 938-4452

# Seniors

## DO NOT FALL VICTIM TO THE LATEST SCAM



The Long Beach Police Department's Forgery/Fraud Detail is warning the public of a widespread scheme targeting elderly residents of Long Beach and across the United States.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of dollars are taken from elderly citizens nationwide, by the use of the telephone. So far this year, swindlers have bilked over \$200,000 from citizens in Long Beach alone.

In this particular lottery scam, these smooth talking con artists utter the magic words "Congratulations, you have just won." The lottery could be any one of several, said to originate in such countries as Canada, Panama, Australia, Spain, or any other foreign country that you might believe would have a national lottery. The scammers call themselves agents, attorneys, or prize administrators. They are always located outside of the United States.

Once the scammers phone a prospective victim and are convinced that the victim is hooked, they reel them in. The news of the victim's good luck is to be kept secret and they are asked to tell no one, especially family or friends, until the winnings are paid. They will tell you that *they* want to make the press announcement, but there are advanced fees that need to be paid before the prize money can be awarded. They call these administration fees, bonds, or tax fees. Once a fee is paid, there are subsequent fees that follow, until the victim's savings is depleted.

Victims are asked to pay those fees by making a cash withdrawal from their bank and to send it to an individual via wire transfer to another bank located outside of the United States. Cash wire transfers are requested because the transaction cannot be reversed or traced.

Residents are encouraged to use extreme caution if they receive any calls from individuals notifying them that they are a lottery winner. Legitimate lotteries do not require payment of fees and would not want the news of your good fortune to be kept secret.

If you are in doubt, obtain as much information as you possibly can, and contact the Long Beach Police Department's Forgery/Fraud Detail at (562) 570-7330.

To learn of other scams affecting seniors and the rest of the community, please schedule a Neighborhood Watch meeting on the topic by contacting PSA Lisa Massacani, at (562) 570-7229.



American Red Cross

## Community Disaster Education Program

*Each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 67,000 disasters, including house or apartment fires (the majority of disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous material spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters.*

*The CDE program was designed to increase public awareness and educate the community in order to help people prevent, prepare for and cope with disasters that may occur. These presentations are free and topics available ar-*

- Earthquake Preparedness & Family Disaster Planning
- Home Fire
- Power Outage
- Terrorism-Preparing for the Unexpected
- Preparedness for People with Disabilities
- Chemical Emergencies
- Heat Wave
- Floods & Flash Floods
- Basic Aid Training
- Masters of Disaster
- Puppet Shows for Children

*Presentations are 45 minutes to one hour long. However, if you need a shorter time frame, a 5-20 minute overview is available. Informational brochures are provided to participants free of charge. Presentations may be scheduled at the*

**Greater Long Beach Chapter  
of the American Red Cross  
(562) 595-6341.**

## ATTENTION . . . APARTMENT OWNERS/MANAGERS

The Long Beach Police Department's Apartment Watch Program is back! The program originated under Long Beach Municipal Code 9.42.010; a section which was later found to be inappropriate for enforcing trespassing on apartment properties. Now, this program has been resurrected utilizing California Penal Code Section 602(n), which prohibits trespassing and loitering on posted properties. With active participation, the program will once again prove to be an effective tool to combat criminal and nuisance activities on apartment properties.

Contact the Apartment Watch Coordinator to obtain an Apartment Watch program registration packet. Complete all appropriate forms and return the package to the Police Department's Community Relations Division. Then, schedule an appointment with the Apartment Watch Coordinator for your property to receive a C.P.T.E.D. (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Property Safety Survey.

Apartment Owners/Managers, please don't forget to post current Apartment Watch Program signs after the successful conclusion of the C.P.T.E.D. Property Safety Survey and after returning your registration forms. Apartment Watch Program signs should be posted on the front and rear of your building and other access points on your property.

You may purchase official Apartment Watch Program signs at the following locations:

- Apartment Association, Calif. Southern Cities, Inc.  
333 W. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 426-8341
- Accent Flag & Sign Service - (562) 422-0373  
10846 Los Vaqueros Circle, Los Alamitos
- Anaheim Ace Hardware - (562) 438-8983  
2720 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach
- Flynn Signs & Graphics - (562) 498-665  
3315 3315 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach
- Long Beach Ace Hardware - (562) 432-2100  
746 E. 4th Street, Long Beach
- Sign-A-Rama - (562) 987-2076  
2926 E. 7th Street, Long Beach

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Apartment Watch Program Coordinator, PSA John Houck, at (562) 570-7160.

## GOLF CARTS LOW SPEED VEHICLES



In recent months, the Long Beach Department has received an increasing number of calls regarding gas powered motor-driven cycles, also known as "pocket bikes," and also golf carts and low speed vehicles.

**Golf carts** are motorized vehicles that have 3 or 4 wheels that are powered by electric or internal combustion motors and they cannot weigh more than 1,300 pounds. They are limited to 15 miles per hour, and are designed to carry golf equipment and no more than two occupants, including the driver.



Neighborhood Electric Vehicle



Global Electric Motor



Cart-Rite's Transporter

**Low Speed Vehicles** are four-wheeled electric vehicles weighing less than 1,800 pounds and are required to operate at a minimum speed of 20 miles per hour with a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour, on a level surface. In addition, they must meet certain safety standards, such as head-lights, brake-lights, turn signals, horn, etc. Low Speed Vehicles include the popular Global Electric Motor (GEM) cars, Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV), Cart-Rite's Transporter and Bombardier Neighborhood Vehicle.

These Low Speed Vehicles must be registered, have insurance and the driver must be licensed. The vehicle must obey all rules of the road and the occupants must wear seat-belts, if the vehicle is equipped with them. These vehicles can only be driven on roadways with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or LESS.



Bombardier Neighborhood Vehicle

If you have any questions, contact the Accident Investigation Detail at (562) 570-7357.



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

*This month's Success Story highlights several teams in the Long Beach Police Department working together with the community to put an end to a year-long crime spree. Please share your own Neighborhood Watch Success Story by sending an article to PSA Lisa Massacani in the Community Relations Division, or e-mail it to [Lisa\\_Massacani@longbeach.gov](mailto:Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov).*

### ***Collaboration of Police and Community Spells Success!***

Over the past year, the residents of Long Beach have experienced over 70 auto burglaries involving the theft of the third row seats of sports utility vehicles.

After conducting an investigation spanning several weeks, the Long Beach Police Department's Night Auto Theft Team, working with the Career Criminal Apprehension Team, was able to identify two suspects in connection with these cases.

The seats normally retail for \$2,000 to \$2,500. The suspects were selling the stolen property to the public from their auto supply business in the city of Riverside for about half of their retail value.

During the course of the investigation, detectives obtained third row SUV seats, donated by George Chevrolet, and brought the seats to one of the suspects who purchased them. The detectives were able to obtain a search warrant for the suspects' business and storage unit. Fifty seats were recovered, valued at approximately \$100,000!

The two suspects were arrested and booked for receiving stolen property. Our detectives are continuing to investigate this case, possibly involving more suspects.

If you have any information regarding this case, please contact the Night Auto Theft Team at (562) 570-7305.



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